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Tariff Revision.

During the campaign just closed, the Democrat platform demanded that the tariff should be revised downward, and in the case of trust made goods, the tariff should be taken off entirely. The Republican platform called for revision only. Mr. Taft, in his speeches, said some schedules needed lowering while others might be raised without any harm. In this connection the views of the protectionists may throw a little light on the tariff question, and as to the necessity for lowering the duties. At least they may give us some figures which will be interesting reading:

"A publication of the American Academy of Political and Social Science of timely interest comprises two papers on tariff revision by a prominent manufacturer of Racine, Wis., Mr. H. E. Miles, a vice president and director of the American Manufacturer's Association and chairman of its committee on Expert Tariff Commission.

In one of these papers Mr. Miles puts up a powerful argument in behalf of a permanent tariff commission, to advise and report to Congress as to the 4,000 items in the tariff law. The scheme of a permanent tariff commission of experts is so practical and sensible that it must soon be adopted. Mr. Miles in his other paper describes how tariffs have been put together and expose some of the abominations in the way of tariff duties that have found their way into the laws. By reason of the haste with which tariff laws are enacted—the present one was drafted and debated and passed by both houses of Congress all inside of three months the writer remarks that "we have had 500,000 lawsuits on classifications and appraisals, nine-tenths of which might have been avoided" by expert classification.

The duty on pig iron is today nearly ten times the wage cost per ton. Not ten times the difference between the American and foreign wage cost, but ten times the total wage-cost of production. This is a glaring instance of excessive tariff, but there are many instances of scarcely less extortion in the duties levied. The compromises made in adjusting tariff duties when tariff bills are framed are notorious and to a great extent unavoidable, in the absence of a permanent advisory commission. Mr. Miles says: "I went with certain data to the man probably most responsible of all for the present situation. Said he: 'Do you think we don't know? Take Senator — for instance. He held up the Dingley bill till we gave him and his pals a wholly unwarranted tariff on borax worth to them over 5 million dollars in money. We had to have his vote. And so it is that Nevada borax, the most easily mined in the best deposit in the world, is 'protected' against inferior foreign deposits, and that the retail price of borax in England is 2½ cents a pound, while in the United States it is 2½ cents plus the 5 cents duty, or 7½ cents. The Senator quickly sold the mines to an English syndicate for 12 million dollars."

It is unnecessary to quote further from a paper containing numerous similar exposes of extortionate duties. Mr. Miles says: "Although this paper is critical of the details of our tariff laws, it is written by a protectionist, a manufacturer and a Republican." He believes further that protection "is the mainstay of our economic well being."

With reference to the borax duty, we might add that it is such a glaring inconsistency as to cause the Kansas City Star, which ardently supported Mr. Taft to almost have a fit.

Tariff revision is an issue of the first order, it remains to be seen, whether or not the Republican party will meet the issue in the interests of the people, or in the interests of the industries. We will wait and see.

Miss Hattie Menchem has returned from Topeka. Her sister, who has been very ill, is improving.

J. P. Gibbons, wife and son, came up from Pratt county the first of the week for a visit with T. B. White and family.

Barton county, failing to elect a Republican to the lower house of the legislature, did the next best thing and elected a Democratic editor, W. P. Feder.—Hutchinson News.

The Lawrence Daily Democrat, by J. B. Fugate, is a late addition to Kansas newspaperdom. Mr. Fugate was at one time connected with the Arkansas Valley Democrat, the predecessor of the Barton County Democrat.

A pain prescription is printed upon each 25c box of Dr. Shoop's Pink Pain Tablets. Ask your Doctor or Druggist if this formula is not complete. Head pains, womanly pains, pains anywhere get instant relief from a Pink Pain Tablet. Holmes Drug store.

Where Do They Stand

One would think that the Kansas City Star would be against the election of United States Senators by a popular vote of the people, because first, it supported Taft, whose convention defeated a plank calling for such election. However, now that the election is over, it concedes that the plank is a good one, as will be seen by the following editorial:

The platform of the defeated party declared for the election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people, and the platform of the victorious party was silent on that subject. Now this does not mean that the issue is either unattractive or dead. For it is an issue and the Democratic party has taken the right stand on it. And if it were possible to put this question to a vote of the country it would carry by an overwhelming majority. Also, if the United States Senate were not convinced that this it true it would not have refused repeatedly to submit to the people a constitutional amendment making this provision.

Defenders of the constitutional plan of electing Senators like to go into the history of the Senate to fortify that plan. And it must be said that the history of the Senate is replete with inspiring examples of the greatness of that body, its services at critical times, its effectiveness in acting as a check on national impulses.

But there is nothing in the history of the Senate to denote that as good men might not have been chosen by a different process. And in recent years the history of the Senate has strongly suggested that better men might have been chosen by the direct vote of the people than by indirect choice through state legislatures.

A favorite argument against direct selection is that if Legislatures elected by the people are untrustworthy, then the people themselves are untrustworthy, for the people elect the Legislature by direct vote. This is either an insincere or an ill-considered argument. The higher the office to which the people elect candidates the better the discrimination of the voters. The country has never elected a bad man to the Presidency. Not a single President has dishonored his office.

In a general way the same thing may be said of Governors. The voters have not always chosen the best men available, but they have usually made intelligent selections between candidates, and the parties have usually exercised consistent care in making their nominations for this office. Bad men have been elected to the National House of Representatives but not many of them—not nearly so many, relatively, as have been elected to the Senate by Legislatures dominated by special interests.

In short, many voters of a legislative district often know nothing at all about the candidates for the Legislature in that district, but they would know and care a great deal about a candidate for the United States Senate if they were called upon to vote him by name. It is the ignorance or the indifference of voters in electing Legislatures that makes the subsequent election of United States Senators by the Legislatures hazardous. There would be a such degree of ignorance or indifference as to a candidate for the United States Senate.

What It Boils Down To.

An interesting witness before the House Ways and Means committee last week was George R. Bower of Philadelphia, who was concerned in the schedules on ammonia, potash and soda. Here is an excerpt from the proceedings:

Mr. Bower admitted that the industries he represented had prospered greatly under the present tariff law.

"Then why do you ask for an increase in the duties?" asked Mr. Underwood.

"To increase our market," was the reply.

"Then it is not for protection but that your profits may be increased?" continued Underwood.

"Well, that's what it boils down to," replied the witness with embarrassment.

Increase of profits is what protection usually boils down to. And where do the consumers come in?—K. C. Star.

And yet the Star ardently supported a ticket and platform in the last campaign which stood for a revision of the tariff by the friends of the tariff. Who are the friends of the tariff? Mr. Bower and those who are protected, or the consumer?

C. F. Wilner of Kansas City is here for a visit with relatives and on business.

The Grand Army Encampment for 1909 will be held at Ottawa on May 11, 12 and 13.

A. G. Frey and family came down from the west last week, for a visit with home folks.

The inspection of the tracks of the Missouri Pacific railway company in Kansas under the direction of the state board of railroad commissioners will begin next Tuesday on the Central branch at Atchison. This will be a part of the program announced by the board when the Missouri Pacific refused to repair its tracks over the state. The members of the board will travel in an observation car ahead of an engine and will make only such speed as will give the expert engineer an opportunity to inspect every foot of track. The expert who will go with the commission is C. W. Colt, who has been in the

railroad engineering business for forty years. He is an expert in his line and at the present time is affiliated with no railroad company. He will be paid a regular salary by the state.

Dan Humphrey was down from Holsington Saturday.

Mrs. W. D. Kleindienst was in Hutchinson several days last week.

We regret to learn that W. F. Seward and family, expect soon to leave for New York to make their permanent home.

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Price, \$15,000

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Mr. Real Estate Man: Bring me a buyer.

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Beginning with the excursion of Oct. 6th, there will be a series of excursions run from Great Bend to South Texas on the following routes:

GREAT BEND TO HOUSTON

HOUSTON TO SAN ANTONIO

SAN ANTONIO TO CORPUS CHRISTI

CORPUS CHRISTI TO SAN DIEGO

A special car will be provided from Newton to destination. A low rate of \$95.00 for the round trip with liberal stop-over privileges has been secured and this route give a splendid opportunity to visit the three places of interest in south Texas—Houston, San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

We have cheap land for investment and desirable homes in the best part of that productive country and can sell for \$2. per acre cash and balance on payments. We have larger tracts for investors or for the man who wants to farm extensively. The land will produce from \$50 to \$800 per acre owing to the crops planted. Oranges and Lemons make a paying crop. The climate is the equal to that of California. Call on us or send for circulars.

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